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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 NEA-10 EUR-25

DRC-01 /182 W
---------- 116662
R 161000Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8099
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 18007

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING BEING RETRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND OR ACTION

QUOTE

R 150945Z OCT 73
FM AMCONSUL CAN THO
TO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 728
INFO RHMSMVA/USDAO AOSOP-OR SAIGON
RUMMRGA/USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0774

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MOPS VS
SUBJECT: SOUTHERNIZATION OF FIRST NVA DIVISION

1. THE FIRST NVA DIVISION IS PRESENTLY IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM
TO LOCALIZE (DIA PHUONG HOA) NORTHERN UNITS. ACCORDING TO
RALLIERS, PRISONERS, AND CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, THIS PROGRAM
WILL INVOLVE A REORGANIZATION WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO DISBAND
THE FIRST DIVISION AS AN NVA ENTITY AND TURN ITS ELEMENTS INTO
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SOUTHERN UNITS.

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(A) THE 101-D REGIMENT (AKA E-1), NOW ON GIAI MOUNTAIN IN CHAU DOC, IS TO BE BROUGHT UP TO STRENGTH, RECHRISTENED AN INDEPENDENT BRIGADE, AND SUBORDINATED DIRECTLY TO VC MR 3. IT IS EXPECTED THAT TROOPS OF THE 640TH AND T-50 BATTALIONS, WHICH RECENTLY REINFORCED THE 10-D ON GIAI MOUNTAIN, WILL REMAIN WITH IT AS FILLERS. THE NEW BRIGADE WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS.

(B) FIRST DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND THE E-44 AND 3-46 REGIMENTS, AFTER HAVING PROVIDED REINFORCEMENTS TO THE 101-D, WILL BE REASSIGNED TO THE "EASTERN REGION." (THIS MAY REFER T THE EASTERN HALF OF GVN MR 4, OR TO THE BINH LONG/HAU NGHIA/ SAIGON AREA). SOURCES SAY THAT THE FIRST'S HEADQUARTERS IS CURRENTLY IDENTIFYING ITS BEST CADRE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE 101-D.

3. BESIDES STRIPPING THE FIRST DIVISION OF ITS NVA COMMAND STRUCTURE, THE COMMUNISTS ARE NOW CLOTHING THE UNIT'S SOLDIERS IN VC UNIFORMS. SEVERAL PRISONERS CAPTURED RECENTLY IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA, IDENTIFIED AS NORTHERNERS BY THEIR ACCENT, WORE VC UNIFORMS. THEY STATED THAT ALL REPLACEMENTS ARRIVING FROM THE NORTH NOW CHANGE THEIR NVA FOR VC UNIFORMS AS SOON AS THEY REACH THE SOUTH.

4. THE FIRST DIVISION WAS FORMED IN GVN MR 3 FOR THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE, AND WAS POSITIONED IN TAKEO PROVINCE IN CAMBODIA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS PRIOR TO ITS RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM IN 1972. THE DIVVISION DOES NOT HAVE A DISTINGUISHED RECORD (CAN THO A-96), AND ONE REAR SERVICE REGIMENT - THE E-48 - WAS ALREADY DISMANTLED IN 1972 AND ITS TROOPS INCORPORATED INTO OTHER UNITS. THE DIVISION'S THREE REMAINING REGIMENTS ARE PRESENTLY HAVING SEVERE DIFFICULTIES IN PROCURING RICE, POL, AND OTHER NECESSITIES, DUE IN PART TO THE EFFORTS OF THE GVN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE PROGRAM IN CHAU DOC (CAN THO 767).
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